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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY PolandREPORT NO. TOPIC Polish Troops and Military Installations in Cosel (Kozle)

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EVALUATION 25X1XPLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT prior to November 1952DATE OBTAINED 25X1A DATE PREPARED 18 June 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. Prior to November 1952, the former Infantry Barracks on the northwestern perimeter of Cosel (P 51/K 98) quartered a Polish artillery unit and a Polish tank unit. The modern and undamaged installation was in the road fork between ul. Piastowska, which led to the railroad station, and ul. Chrobrego, which led toward Cherglogau (P 51/J 14), and included five large four-story buildings containing billets, two kitchen-and-mess buildings, one tank storage shed, one motor-vehicle repair shop, two gun storage sheds and two horse stables. A tank monument on a stone pedestal was in the courtyard. Another fenced-in area, which included two wooden gun-and-vehicle storage sheds, was directly northeast of the barracks installation. Source determined that three and a half barracks buildings quartered the artillery unit and one complete building the tank unit. The other half building contained billets of unmarried officers and NCCs. The barracks installation was occupied to capacity. All bedsteads in the billets were double deckers.
2. The soldiers of the artillery unit, who were on active duty, wore khaki uniforms with red service color. They frequently talked to source, but never mentioned the presence of Soviet personnel wearing Polish uniforms. Nor did source observe Soviet military personnel at other post installations. Prior to 1952, the artillery unit was gradually equipped with trucks. Between 150 and 200 draught-horses were available in 1949 and, in the summer of 1952, the unit still had about 60 horses. They were replaced by 3-axle trucks and were gradually turned over to the studfarm on the island in the Oder River in Cosel. At the barracks installation source observed a total of about 30 guns of three different types; he was unable to specify, however. The heaviest and fairly high model was towed as a single load by a 3-axle truck and had a split-trail gun carriage, rubber-tired solid iron wheels with round openings, a jacketed barrel, more than 4 meters long, with no muzzle brake and a fairly unnoticeable shield. Another gun model, which was much smaller than the heavy model, and was towed by a 3-axle truck, had a split-trail gun carriage rubber-tired solid wheels with openings, and a barrel, which projected 2.5 to 3 meters beyond the four-cornered shield and was equipped with a cylindrical muzzle brake, a shield with straight edges, a cradle and a pneumatic recuperator. Cartridge ammunition was used for training. The third gun model was smaller than the other two, had pneumatic tires, a relatively short barrel with no muzzle brake, and a cradle with oblique sidewings, whose top edge was the height about level with the chest of a man standing upright. ²

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The men of the unit received artillery training in the area about 2 km west of the city, on both sides of the road to Oberglogau, where cartridge ammunition was occasionally fired. During summer, the unit entrained at the Cosel railroad station, and soldiers said, was transported to a record firing ground between Krakow (Q 51/Z 24) and the Soviet border, where the soldiers bivouacked in tents.

3. Prior to November 1952, in the barracks area source observed two four-barreled AA guns, whose crews wore khaki uniforms, but saw no major unit connected with these weapons. The AA gun was on a four-wheeled mount with pneumatic twin wheels, topped by fenders. The gun proper was in a pivot-type superstructure with a small door at its rear. The barrels were arranged in pairs in two buildings with one barrel topping the other. One gunner was sitting on each side of the gun, which could be towed by trucks.
4. Contrary to the artillerymen the soldiers of the tank unit wore blue-gray uniforms. Source believed that the address of one of his friends, who belonged to this unit, was code number 1862. He observed about 15 armored vehicles which had revolving turrets and included 2 or 3 of a rather large model. Although unable to give specifications of the models he said that he discerned bogie wheels and track-supporting rollers. The turrets of some of the tanks mounted twin-barreled AA machine guns. The tank guns of both models, which had muzzle brakes, projected beyond the front edge of the nose. ³ Training of the tank unit was also held in the area west of the city. The tanks occasionally also used the terrain north of the railroad line to Oberglogau and west of Rogau (P 51/X 98). No combined action of the tanks and other branches such as infantry units were observed. The tank unit and the artillery unit moved to the training ground east of Krakow during summer. ⁴
5. Eleven houses, about 500 meters southeast of the barracks installation, south of ul. Chrobrego and on both sides of ul. Krasinskiego and Mickiewicza, which branched toward the south, housed married officers and NCOs of the units located in the former Infantry Barracks. An air strip on which a liaison plane usually landed once a week, was on the south side of the road to Oberglogau and directly east of the railroad line toward Reinschdorf (P 51/X 97). The pilot, who carried courier's baggage, usually went to the barracks installation for several hours.
6. No billets other than the former Infantry Barracks were in the post prior to November 1952. Only a small cantonment, to which strong guard units were detached from the Infantry Barracks, was in the vicinity of the target ranges and the post ammunition depot located in this area. The target ranges were on the east bank of the Oder River, south of the road to Kłodnitz (P 51/X 98). The ammunition depot in the old fortified defense system west-southwest of the city had been vacated in early 1951.
7. Prior to November 1952, a former German Army fuel depot, which included 4 or 5 large fuel tanks and was guarded by soldiers, was 300 meters west of the west bank of the Oder River and directly south of the railroad station of the line crossing the Oder River to Heydebreck (O 54/L 90). The pump installations of the depot were west of and between the tanks and the area of the railroad station. The depot was regularly supplied directly from tank cars. The installation served routine supplies to units at the post.
8. A Polish military district headquarters was on the west side of ul. Piastowska, which led to the railroad station, and directly north of Wallgraben. The bakery

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- 25X1A 1. ☐ Comment. This barracks installation is the only known in Cosel. Previous reports stated that the installation quartered the artillery regiment of the 7th Div, which may again be covered by the present report. The tank unit is reported for the first time.
- 25X1A 2. ☐ Comment. No Soviet gun with the characteristics of the heavy gun model is known. If the information is correct, the gun may be the German Model-18 150-mm heavy field howitzer. The specifications of the two other models tend to indicate that source saw the Soviet ZIS-3 76.2-mm field gun and possibly, the Soviet 76.2-mm infantry gun or a light AT gun. Although the estimated number of 30 guns is indicative of an artillery regiment, it is unlikely that one regiment should simultaneously have these three gun models.
- 25X1A 3. ☐ Comment. It is fairly definitely believed that the tank unit which source saw also belongs to the 7th Div, since it moved to the training ground east of Krakow together with the artillery unit. Judging from the specification given the unit is equipped with JS tanks, but no previous reports mentioned twin-barreled AA machine guns on tanks. The unit possibly belongs to a tank SP artillery regiment. The statements of the refugees still are unsubstantiated.
- 25X1A 4. ☐ Comment. It is believed that the training ground east of Krakow is the ground between Rzeszow and Debica, which is certainly used by troops of the 5th Military District in Krakow. The assignment of the 7th Div in Gleiwitz to this military district is confirmed.

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